

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 08455 161540Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SP-02  
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 FEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 /117 W  
----- 029190 /70

R 161429Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4138  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 8455

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ENRG, EALR, IS  
SUBJECT: ISRAELI OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

REF: TEL AVIV 7925

1. A PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD DECEMBER 14 ON THE ISRAELI-LEASED OIL DRILLING VESSEL "WINGATE", WHICH HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN FOR THE PAST MONTH. HAARETZ OF DECEMBER 15 REPORTED THAT THE SHIP IS OFF SINAI SOME "18 KILOMETERS WEST OF THE GAZA/SINAI INTERNATIONAL BORDER." DRILLING AT THE PRESENT SITE IS SCHEDULED FOR 90 DAYS, BUT COULD BE EXTENDED UP TO 120 DAYS IF GEOLOGICAL OR TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ENSUE. DRILLING IS PLANNED FOR A DEPTH OF 5,000 METERS AND HAS ALREADY REACHED 1350 METERS. FOUR OR FIVE DIFFERENT DRILLING OPERATIONS ARE ANTICIPATED FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

2. THE "WINGATE" REPORTEDLY BELONGS TO THE CITY DRILLING COMPANY OF GREAT BRITAIN; THE SERVICE BOAT ACCOMPANYING IT IS NORWEGIAN-OWNED. WHILE THE DRILLING IS HANDLED BY BRITISH EXPERTS, TECHNICAL AND GEOLOGICAL CONTROL IS IN ISRAELI HANDS. THE TOTAL COST OF DRILLING PER DAY IS  
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 08455 161540Z

\$55,000.

3. THE ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT ALTHOUGH NO AMERICAN COMPANY IS PARTICIPATING IN THE PRESENT DRILLING, A U.S. FIRM HAS GIVEN NOTICE THAT IT WILL PARTICIPATE IN TWO FUTURE DRILLINGS WITH A SHARE OF 50 PERCENT.

A GERMAN GROUP, PUT TOGETHER BY ISRAELI BUSINESSMAN  
YEKUTIEL FEDERMAN, IS TO DECIDE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW  
DAYS WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESENT DRILLING  
ON A 25 PERCENT SHARE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TELAV08455  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760463-1103  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, EALR, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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